

SERVING THE AFRICAN DIASPORA SINCE 1972

APRIL/MAY 09

THE ONLYX INFORMER

BLACKS IN STYLE

RECESSION STRIKES HBCU'S

SAVING FACE ON FACEBOOK

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF '09!

THE ONYX INFORMER

APRIL/MAY 09

exists to be a voice for the people of the African Diaspora and the greater Boston community in which we reside. The ONYX embraces the unity and values of diversity in both the content of our publication and in the membership of our organization.

Contents April/May 2009

EDITORIAL

(3) Letters from the Editors

EDUTAINMENT

(8) Oumar "G.RiOt" Sow Album

(9) Marcus Johnson-Smith Book

FEATURES

(6) 2009-2010 Onyx Staff

(10) Saving Face on Facebook

(12) HBCU's

(14) Blacks In Style

(18) Don't Judge The Athlete

OUT AND ABOUT

(20) Student Events

SPOTLIGHT

(16) Sara Rivera

(17) Carrie Boykin

TALK BACK

(23) Mr. & Ms. Nubian

(24) SoulSpeech



COVER PHOTO BY CRAIG BAILEY

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Making positive impressions.

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Letter from the Editors

I Will Remember NU for the Lessons I have been Taught Outside of the Classroom

A few weeks ago, I hosted high school students who had been admitted to the university but were still contemplating on what college to attend, as part of the student of color overnight recruitment program. A question that the students asked me was "what was one thing I hated about Northeastern." Thinking long and hard, I replied "nothing." The students were so surprised they rephrased the question. Still I could not come up with anything. I listed to them the things that annoyed me-the NU shuffle, not having enough vegetarian options in the dining hall, and lack of available meeting spaces for student groups, but I could not name one thing I hated about this university. Some of you who may know me may be shocked to hear this, but I honestly can say that I have enjoyed all four years that I have been at Northeastern. Though I cannot compare my college experience to any other, because NU is the only college I have attended, I can say that in comparisons to the universities that I have visited NU is top. The reason for this is that students are really given a chance to shape their education outside of the classroom. I came to NU in 2005 and my mission then was to show that as a Ujima Scholar I was just as qualified as any student to be at NU, and to land a job working as a reporter for the *Washington Post*. Four years later that goal has quadrupled and my accomplishments are many. I am not just a Ujima Scholar but I have been recognized by many as an influential student. I am leaving with loans totaling a little more than a year's tuition because of the scholarships and opportunities that were presented to me. Through my involvements on campus; starting with freshman year as a Corp Member for Jumpstart to being president of the Northeastern African Student Organization to serving as the editor in chief of a student publication, I have acquired a lot of knowledge and information. I also have learned that if I am not happy about something I must make all attempts to change it by finding solutions not complaining about how bad things are. Though I am graduating, I will not forget the many people who have helped to mold me into the woman that I have become. The ones that encouraged me, allowed me to disagree with them, and told me that they believed in me. Thank you.

Margaret Kamara
Editor-In-Chief
onyxeditorinchief@gmail.com

No Regrets

John W. Gardner, Former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, said, "Life is the art of drawing without an eraser." I love this quotation because I truly lived my life with no regrets, no do-overs necessary. I arrived a timid freshman with many fears but I will leave an ambition adult ready to make my mark on the world.

Over the last five years, I have learned more lessons than I know what to do with. Northeastern has empowered, inspired and challenged me to obtain the sometimes impossible but I emerged victorious and with a degree. I have been enriched in culture as well as academics.

In my years at Northeastern; *The Onyx Informer* provided a support system for a young African-American journalist; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated allowed me to be surrounded by such amazing women; and Youth Action for Rural Africa helped me to get in touch with my humanitarian side.

Northeastern has helped me to accomplish my goals and has even prepared me for what is yet to come. From learning to maneuver through the obstacle course we call the "NU Shuffle" to conquering fear of heights in Ghana, it has been a trip of self-discovery.

Throughout my college career, I have been living my life as an artist; creating and experiencing with new things every chance I get. I tested the waters academically as well as socially and I have not regretted a moment. 140 semester credits, dozens of different hairstyles, 20 Facebook albums later, I can truthfully proclaim that I have lived life without an eraser.

Brittany Bass
Managing Editor
onyxmanagingeditor@gmail.com

Become a part of the Onyx Team!

The *Onyx* is looking for an editor for our RoundTable section, and also Graphic Design students to join our design team.

RoundTable:

The RoundTable is a forum for Northeastern students, staff, faculty and members from the outside community to discuss and debate on issues affecting ethnic minorities.

Job description includes, but is not limited to:

- Responsible for advertising and recruiting for the RoundTable discussion.
- Responsible for transcribing the RoundTable discussion.
- Responsible for the setup of the RoundTable, which includes selecting a date and reserving a space.

Design Team:

The design team produces the layout and designs for the magazine. Prior experience with InDesign, Photoshop, and other applicable design programs is a plus, but not required.

Job description includes, but is not limited to:

- Responsible for working with Photo Editor on the acquisition of all photographs.
- Responsible for designing flyers for *Onyx* announcements and/or events sponsored by the *Onyx* and visual representation of the *Onyx* logo.

Contact: onyxeditorinchief@gmail.com

ONYX

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN?

Meetings are Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the West Village C Classroom (you don't need to be signed in...)

COME AND BE A PART OF HISTORY!

Attention Student Groups:

Want your event in the Onyx? Please send event info to: onyxphotos@gmail.com. Type: "Out & About" in the subject line. We are now accepting events for Fall 2009.

Comments, suggestions?

If you have any comments, critiques, topic ideas or suggestions please let us know! We want to hear from you.

Please email us at
onyxsubmission@gmail.com or
onyxinformer@gmail.com.

Attention Poets, Artists, and Literary Writers:

Want to get published? Send your pieces to onyxsubmission@gmail.com. Type "Soul-Speech submission" in the subject line. We are now accepting pieces for our Fall 2009.

Need Advice?

Direct your questions to our advice columnists Mr. and Ms. Nubian. Send questions about life, relationships, school, and everything in between to:

Mr. Nubian: mr.nubian@gmail.com
Ms. Nubian: ms.nubian@gmail.com

In Our Next Issue:

Welcome to Northeastern University: Freshman and New Students
Guide to Boston

Coming Soon:

The Onyx Blog

Updates:

The *Onyx* will be gone for the summer but will return in the fall. However, the staff is still available via e-mail.

We are accepting submissions for the Fall.

Visit Us Online

www.onyx.neu.edu

Search Facebook
"Onyx Informer"

View pictures from Onyx Week on our Facebook group

Corrections

Feb/March:

Roundtable:

Rachel White: is a junior majoring in Health Science

Meet the 2009-2010 Onyx Executive Board!



Editor-in-Chief: Keir Bristol

Major: Journalism

Year: 2012

Hometown: West Orange, N.J.

Vision for Next Year: I want more students on campus to know about the *Onyx*, especially the incoming freshmen. I want the *Onyx* to be respected as a publication, and I want students to look to it for groundbreaking stories on culture and the Northeastern community as a whole. I want the *Onyx* to be more prominent online, and on the Northeastern campus. I want students of all colors to be interested in the *Onyx*, to participate, and to depend on the *Onyx* to voice their opinions on prominent subjects in the Northeastern community.



Managing Editor: Maxine Roca

Major: Communication Studies

Year: 2011

Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y.

Vision for Next Year: Expansion! I'd like for more people to know about what a great publication the *Onyx* is. I would also like to see the *Onyx* get back to being the magazine it once was.



Business Manager: Jennifer Barris

Major: Business Administration, Accounting Concentration

Year: 2012

Hometown: San Diego, Calif.

Vision for Next Year: I hope *The Onyx Informer* becomes a place of refuge for the students of color here at Northeastern University. I want students to cherish their involvement with the group and aspire to use the group as a medium for expressing their thoughts and perspectives.



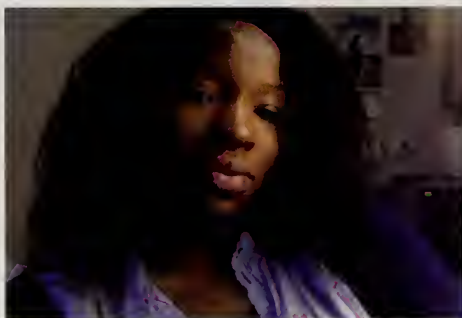
Copy/Submissions Editor: Jordan Martins

Major: Journalism

Year: 2012

Hometown: New Bedford, Mass.

Vision for Next Year: I hope to increase the number of people involved with the *Onyx*, and bring more testosterone to these pages through getting more male members. I want to be that publication on campus that people are excited to read when it drops.



Public Relations: Kadidjah Traore

Major: Journalism

Year: 2011

Hometown: Boston, Mass.

Vision for Next Year: My future goal for the *Onyx* is to make the name of the *Onyx* more well known and give writers a chance to put their work out there and introduce the community here to one of the greatest publications on campus.



Advertisement Manager: Anuli Akanegbu

Major: Marketing

Year: 2013

Hometown: Highland, Md.

Vision for Next Year: I hope to see the *Onyx* regain the popularity and respect it once had on campus.



Office Manager: Sharlene Juste

Major: Journalism

Year: 2013

Hometown: Bronx, N.Y.

Vision for Next Year: I want the *Onyx* to be the publication that students of color look to for support, entertainment, and inspiration."



Photo Editor: Danielle Howe

Major: Communication Studies

Year: 2013

Hometown: Bronx, N.Y.

Vision for Next Year: My vision for the *Onyx* is to have it be back to the level that it was in past years. I want the *Onyx* to be a huge part of every student's life, much like *Huntington News* or *Tastemakers*. Watch out NU...*Onyx* is on its way BACK!



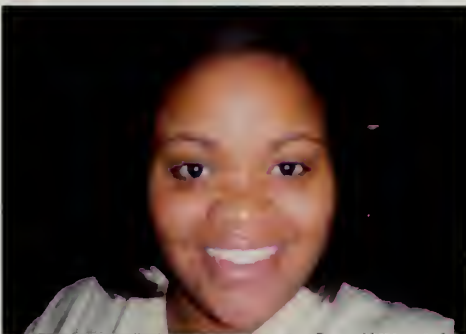
Layout Editor: Jasmine Woods

Major: International Business

Year: 2012

Hometown: Ridgeway, Va.

Vision for Next Year: I would like to see the *Onyx* become a magazine that is appreciated on campus by students, faculty and staff of all ethnic backgrounds.



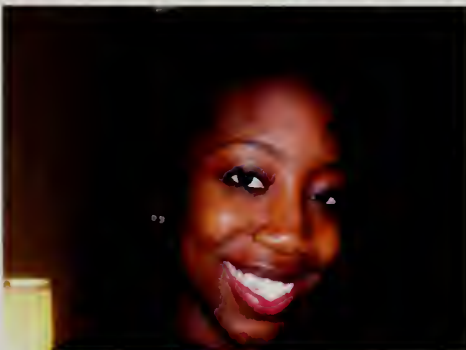
Layout Editor: Alexa Harper-Lewis

Major: Sociology

Year: 2010

Hometown: Freeport, N.Y.

Vision for Next Year: I would like to see the *Onyx Informer* be taken into a direction where our publication can be seen through different media outlets. This can include making our online publication more functional for students, as well as getting our name out there across Northeastern and the larger Boston community.



Layout Editor: Yvonne Wilkins

Major: Communication Studies

Year: 2012

Hometown: Providence, R.I.

Vision for Next Year: I would like to see the *Onyx* attracting the entire Northeastern campus not only students, African-American students and faculty, but all of Northeastern no matter the race.

MUSIC REVIEW

Oumar Sow AKA G.RiOt

BY DANIELLE HOWE



COURTESY OF OUMAR SOW

It's hard to conquer the music industry, let alone doing it while you are a full time student... by yourself, with your own money, and on your own time. Insane, right? G.RiOt, or better known as Oumar Sow, is about to embark on his fourth year at Northeastern University. He has accomplished a feat that few his age have: writing, composing and producing his own album all in the span of a year.

The self-titled debut album has earned him recognition throughout campus and various underground music sites here in the greater Boston area. It certainly is a remarkable achievement; however, is the content that remarkable? I was curious, so I decided to take a listen to it to see if it was up to par and give you guys the heads up on all the hype that follows this young man... because the hype is only believable for so long.

Overall, the album was decent at best; 17 tracks and about 50 minutes long. I give him a lot of credit for having such a developed sound for an album that was his first. However, with that said I felt his general style and organization of the album was very rough and a bit immature.

When I was started listening to the album, it almost felt as if I was listening to a seventh grader rapping about trying to court all the eighth grade girls. The album was a bit of a disappointment. Part of the album lacked substance and originality. Most of his tracks sounded like he was doing a bad impersonation of Juelz Santana mixed with Lupe Fiasco all while trying to copy the voice style of Lil Wayne. "Come see" and "What's your Major?" (Tracks two and three) sounded like he recorded it in his dorm room. It's understandable, you're an entertainer, but your beats weren't catchy enough to even attempt to pull off that type of style.

According to Sow, his project is a "mainstream album" and track four "Do You Like Me" is reminiscent of The Lost Boyz's "Renee" except it falls short of an in-depth meaning. Overall, I feel the album displayed his immaturity and lacked much feeling and emotion. However, if he were able to come out of his shell and allow himself to mature, his music would be much more pleasurable.

Our dear Oumar did redeem himself towards the end of the CD though, with some tracks that finally made sense to me. Tracks one through six lacked feeling and emotion but the light emerged at the end of the tunnel when I reached track 7, which I believed to be the best track of the entire album. FINALLY! There was some progress and I saw the real talent that this young man possesses. It had what the other tracks lacked; feeling, emotion, meaning, and most of all soul. He was able to translate all this through his music which is reminiscent of 90's hip-hop but quite rare in today's rap game.

Oumar expressed to me his joy

of making music and how it would be "great if I can get a record deal." Well, there is your answer. If all your musical content had that great unique and youthful tone to it while giving it substance, you'd be a star in no time. The world of is craving originality and a fresh talent that Oumar definitely has- if he can harness it. He is a lyricist, poet, and most of all dedicated; all of which are qualities that will make him a star someday.

It's one thing to have the idea but to act on it...that's a different story. Oumar or G-RiOt, whatever you like to call him, is an artist. What type of artist...well that remains to be seen. We're not here to down him because there is no lie that he is a talented young artist. You should believe the hype because he's just that good! This album has nothing to do with the talent that he possesses. With just a bit more improvement, it is merely the stepping stone to his bright future in the music industry. After all, as the artist we know as G.RiOt says: "Music is my life, and I don't know what I would do without it."

BOOK

Mirrorless Reflection

BY KEIR BRISTOL

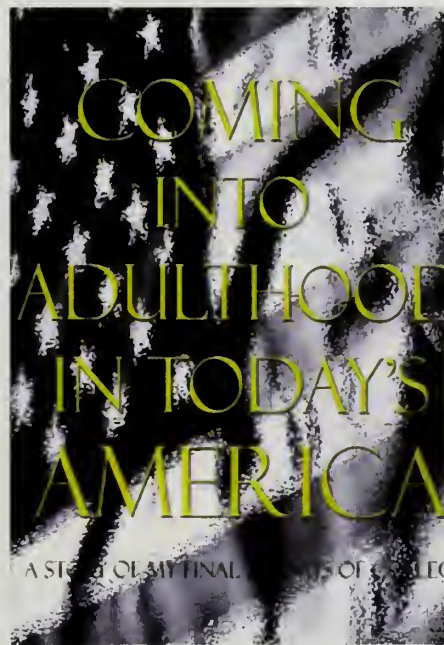
Coming Into Adulthood in Today's America, is the perfect example of what the Black man is thinking, but no one talks about. Marcus Johnson-Smith simultaneously exposes the conditions of a Black man in America, and discovers himself while living in those same conditions. The book, written in the form of a journal over the course of 100 days, displays the point of view of an average Black college student in his final semester. Like many seniors, he is confused about his life and what will come after school finishes.

While the activities documented in the journal entries may portray a typical college male, it is his private thoughts that may eliminate any assumptions the reader may have. Johnson-Smith's contemplations range from Barack Obama's bid for presidency, to his relationship with his father, which was cut short when he was murdered several years before the writer went to college. The reader finds Johnson-Smith growing restless and unfulfilled with classes, work, and his relationship with his significant other, which he eventually ends on amicable terms. He says, "I guess the pressure from work and school at this point is piling up on my mind. All this pressure to perform has led to me this feeling of detachment from who I am. I don't feel I'm doing what I want to be doing at this moment but who really does at this age?"

When Johnson-Smith is found guilty of on a school paper, he becomes worried that this may jeopardize his month-long trip to Africa with his classmates. Despite his academic faux-pas, he was able to participate in the trip to Ghana where he was smitten by the inhabitants and religion. The writer becomes more open to learning

new things, understanding people of different colors and backgrounds, and questioning what he has been taught throughout his life. Johnson-Smith says, "I feel that I've taken more away from education in this one week being here than all my years in college."

Towards the end of the trip, the reader finds the author withdrawing



from class activities to contemplate. Much as Johnson-Smith claims that he wants to discover himself and loves the simple way of life in Ghana, he finds himself homesick, missing television, boys, weed, and girls. These thoughts are addressed in the epilogue, where Johnson-Smith says, "... the things I was taking in became an overindulgence; clouding my natural way of seeing reality. Being away from it all with a clear mind opened my eyes to where I am now." The end of the book also documents Johnson-Smith's devastation over the death of friend and fellow NU student, Rebecca Payne, who died last year of several gun shots in her apart-

ment in Mission Hill.

The reader will be left wanting more, as the final day ends with the writer's return to Africa. With no word on what happens after, one is left wondering how the writer's life changed. A sequel, including what happened after the trip to Africa, the conclusion of his student life in Boston and Johnson-Smith's contemplations as a full-fledged man, would be welcomed.

Nevertheless, the book is recommended to everyone, as it gives insight to the views of a Black college student in America today, uncensored. From the writer's relationships with girls, to his friends, to smoking and drinking, to academics, to his deepest innermost thoughts, the writing is realistic and relatable. Women of all colors will get more insight on what really goes on in the head of a Black college male. Black men will identify with the writer's thoughts and language, and they may even spark some epiphanies of their own. Anyone of any color who reads *Coming Into Adulthood In Today's America* will be able to better understand the point of view of a Black man in this country.

In conclusion of his 100 day journal writing habit, Johnson-Smith says, "In our society, through the modernization of media, we are constantly bombarded with messages that attempt to define or label our human experiences... We take in too much and process too little." *Coming into Adulthood In Today's America*, brings America one step away from flaws in our ingestion of media and stereotypes, and one step closer to understanding the place of a Black man in America, and the world.

SAVING FACE ON FACEBOOK

BY KEIR BRISTOL

When Facebook was founded on February 4, 2004, it was a phenomenon that was exclusive to college students. Now, the network is open to anyone who wants to join. From students to senior citizens, everyone is taking part in the online trend.

But it seems that Facebook's main purpose—communication—has evolved and grown. What does a parent want with a Facebook account? Is it the same reason your professor has Facebook, or your boss? *The Onyx Informer* takes a look at the different uses of Facebook within the Northeastern community.

FACEBOOK FOR THE JOB YOU WANT (NOT THE JOB YOU GOT)...

Generally, advisors and professors at Northeastern advise against putting questionable content on Facebook. In fact, it is a sure-to-be-discussed topic in the preparatory class that Northeastern students are required to take before they go on co-op.

Gary Witherspoon, a part-time journalism professor and assistant editor

GARY WITHERSPOON



COURTESY OF EVAN RICHMAN

for *The Boston Globe*, encourages his students to "be careful."

"You never know if they're looking at that stuff. Especially if you are underage and have a beer in your hand," says Witherspoon. "It's illegal. An employer might think twice about hiring you."

Ari Herzog, online media strategist and principal of Ari Herzog and Associates, agrees that students should not post anything online that they wouldn't want employers to see.

“Take the employer’s perspective. If I’m looking for a job, I know someone in public HR is probably going to be Googling my name”

"I do know that companies know about social networking sites, they know about Facebook and Myspace and Twitter and they are aware on how to search for info and people," said Herzog.

"Take the employer's perspective. If I'm looking for a job, I know someone in public HR is probably going to be Googling my name. They're going to find out where I am and who I am online. If they're in my network they can click onto my profile and I wouldn't even know about it."

"When Facebook first became popular I heard about it a lot," says Kellianne Murphy,

Associate Co-op Coordinator for the School of Arts and Sciences at Northeastern. "It's just considered part of the process. It's a small percentage of people who actually do but some do you never know."

And there have been some horror stories in the past few years. Murphy gave an example of a student who blogged on Myspace about an interview she had with a company for a co-op position three years ago. "She said

something derogatory about a job she was offered," said Murphy, "and they retracted the offer."

Nevertheless, there are people who benefit professionally from their online activities. Herzog cites Vanessa Sievers, a 20-year-old junior at Dartmouth University. Sievers, a history and geography major, was elected treasurer of Grafton County, N.H. Her campaign strategy? She bought advertisement space on Facebook --\$51, to be exact -- and encouraged all of her Facebook friends to pass the word along.

PARENTS JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND...

Employers aren't the only people checking out Northeastern students on the internet. Parents are a growing demographic online as well. Naturally, many students feel that the intention is

to “spy” on their kids.

“I feel that Facebook is networking for college,” says Jess Volpe, a middler journalism major. “Some parents do it to check up on their kids, and I think that’s ridiculous... it’s kind of like an invasion.”

“I definitely use it as a spy tool. I first tried to get a Facebook when it first came out and you had to be a student,” said Debbie Ruppel, mother of two sons. “I was going underground, trying to check and see what Pat’s up to, but they wouldn’t let me on. You had to be a student. That’s what started me on Myspace... then they let me on without being a student, but I was already on Myspace, stalking and checking.”

DAN KENNEDY



COURTESY OF DAN KENNEDY

Dan Kennedy, a journalism professor at Northeastern University and father of two, uses Facebook to connect with fellow journalists.

“In the past year or so increasingly journalists have been joining Facebook and using it as another outlet to connect with readers and find an audience for their work. That is actually the main thing I use it for,” said Kennedy. “My son and my daughter are both on Facebook. I have not ‘friended’ them; they would be horrified if I did. I would like to, but I think it’s important they have their space without interfering.”

STUDENT DISADVANTAGE...

Still, some students are skeptical. On Facebook.com, it is stated that “Facebook’s mission is to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected. Millions of people use Facebook every day to keep up with friends, upload an unlimited number of photos, share links and videos, and learn more about the people they meet.” These “people” do not just include college students anymore, and that fact is causing some tension.

“I think it’s a combination,” says Katie Price, a freshman journalism and music industry major. “I think they would like to think it was really for networking, and kids want to think it’s for networking. But, everyone knows it makes it really easy to check up on kids.”

Good intentions or otherwise, according to Facebook’s Social Ads platform, the largest growing demographic on Facebook is adults between the ages of 35 and 54. This group has grown 276.4 percent in the past six months. And just like that, gone is the Facebook that allowed kids to put up drunken pictures, inappropriate videos and uncensored blogs unscathed.

SUE AND KATIE PRICE



COURTESY OF DAN PRICE

ONYX Tips to Secure Your Facebook Page

Set your profile to private

Untag yourself from questionable photos.

Do not post anything that can be used against you.

Edit your wall postings.

Make sure your personal information (status, hobbies, quotes. etc.) are appropriate.

Choose your friends wisely

Recession Strikes Crippling Blow to HBCUs

BY SHARLENE JUSTE

Historically Black Colleges and Universities are among the hardest hit by the country's current economic crisis. In the month of February alone, two prominent HBCUs made noticeable cuts that gained national attention. According to Shaila Dewan of the New York Times, Clark Atlanta University laid off 70 faculty and 30 staff members. Right next door, Spelman College, one of the wealthiest and most prestigious Black institutions, also cut 35 staff positions.

When asked how she felt about the recent cuts, Karen Davis, a junior at Clark Atlanta said, "It's an unfortunate situation, I feel like its going to hinder the education of African Americans as a whole in the future, and set back gradu-

SACS, FAMU is currently on probation, the commission's highest sanction.

While Morris Brown has to emergency fundraiser to keep the school's water on, many predominantly white institutions have yet to face such trying times.

Why is this?

The reason behind many of the HBCUs financial difficulty stems from their lack of endowment. These are funds that alumni and donors give to universities. Most HBCUs do not have extensive endowments compared to that of larger institutions, which means they depend heavily on tuition to cover expenses.

holding historically black colleges and universities in a frightening state of limbo. They were built with the intention of nurturing and teaching young minds, but these intentions are seemingly not enough to pay their bills.

How Is the Northeastern Community Dealing with the Economic Crisis?

According to President Aoun's latest "Progress Report on Our Financial Position", made on January 15th 2009, NU has been cutting costs by "closely examining operating budgets, postponing some campus projects, and curtail-

In view of its size and limited programmatic diversity, the College of Criminal Justice may be at risk in this new environment." This means that CJ may not be safe on its own during this economic crisis.

ation for a large amount of students who attend HBCUs."

As a direct result of financial hardship and scandal, Morris Brown College was stripped of its accreditation in 2002 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and has not regained it since. Meaning it has fallen below the standards as specified by the state that qualifies it to be a fully functioning educational institution. (Jet Magazine Jan. 2003)

Florida A&M University, another well known HBCU, is currently in danger of losing its accreditation. According to the Commission on Colleges of the

Why Not Raise Tuition?

In addition to acute endowments, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, students who attend HBCUs have more financial need and therefore receive more financial aid than those who attend other schools.

This makes it difficult for Black colleges to raise tuition and fees. If they did, students would not be able to afford an education and current students may be forced to withdraw. This is the last thing that HBCUs or its students want to happen.

These economic circumstances are

ing travel and events." NU has also proposed merging the College of Criminal Justice and the College of Arts and Sciences. In the initial memo to faculty and staff regarding the proposal, Provost Stephen W. Director stated "Colleges of a certain base level of size and scope are better able under these models not only to realize economies of scale, but also to have room for programmatic creativity. Colleges of a larger scale and mix of activities are also better equipped to ride out year-to-year fluctuations in income generated by any one aspect of the college's activity. In view of its size and limited programmatic diversity,

the College of Criminal Justice may be at risk in this new environment.” This means that CJ may not be safe on its own during this economic crisis. There are three models for reorganizing CAS and CJ would be included in all of these models if the merge were to take place. Lastly, NU’s 2010 fiscal budget calls for a 4.9 percent tuition increase.

What are other universities in the Boston community doing?

According to Boston University’s recent presidential address, in the wake of the economic crisis they have decided to “freeze all non-essential staff hiring and defer new capital projects to preserve resources.”

BU’s president, Dr. Robert A. Brown stated, “We are not immune from the impacts of the recession.”

In response to a \$10 million gap in their 2010 budget, Brown also said, “We are building our budget for next year on a necessarily conservative basis, assuming that there will be further declines in the endowment during this fiscal year.”

BU’s approach to the crisis involves a lot of freezing of administrative spending in order “avoid increased debt.”

In a letter from Boston College’s president William P. Leahy, the institution lays out its plans for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Their upcoming budget calls for raising undergraduate tuition by 3 percent and increasing financial aid for students by 7.34 percent.

Leahy also stated, “Non-salary operating expenses will be reduced by 2 percent.”

BC is also considering organizational consolidations

Despite the tough economic times, Leahy notes that BC’s cash reserves and undergraduate applications remain strong, and active searches to fill more than 50 faculty positions are in progress.

If Northeastern had to make a budget cut, what could it do without?



“I would like to see Northeastern cut some funding on athletics. Being that we’re an academic institution first, I feel that if we were to cut away from athletics, it would not take away from what the university stands for, what its virtues are or what it’s trying to give to each and everyone of its students. Most students come here to receive a collegiate degree and for co-op experiences.”

-Rishabh Mallick, Freshman, Business



“The university should cut items like the Exhibition Kitchen, that’s not necessary. They should also cut the ‘To Go’ place in the library, no one really shops there. I also think they should cut the money they give to RSA (Resident Student Association) because it is not distributed evenly and it is only beneficial to members of RSA.”

-Michaelle Larracuente, Middler, Psychology



“Nothing that I know of. I’m a freshman, so I don’t know that much about everything that is going on, but everything I have heard of, I’ve thought wow that’s so cool. Other schools don’t have that, or I’ve thought, oh yeah, that’s really useful.”

-Karen Zhang, Freshman, Business



“In the midst of people not being able to afford school and not awarded properly, I think the school should put its focus on financial aid, and cut out the upgrading of functioning electronics. I feel like there are too many new upgrades of things that are already working fine.”

-Aliazar Asefa, Sophomore, Psychology



“I’d want them to make considerations on reducing the funds to the athletics department because I feel that a lot of the sports do not draw significant participation or viewership, which reveals a disinterest in the program. The student body as a whole could benefit more if that money was reallocated more appropriately.”

-Thomas Wright, Freshman, Business



“I think the university should cut out landscaping. Less trees and flowers won’t hurt. Maybe they could plant flowers that don’t need that much maintenance to save money.”

-BreeAna Jones, Freshman, International Business

Black in Style



Model: Bianca Golden,
former contestant on
"America's Next Top Model,"
ninth cycle at Amaya Swimwear
photoshoot in Miami, Fla.

PHOTO BY TOMMY CHUNG

P

ople turn to the fashion industry to tell them what's in style. We read fashion magazines to see what a small group of fashion insiders deem as stylish. These insiders aren't just deciding what footwear is "in-style" but they control lifestyle trends and illusions of beauty that we are exposed to consumers.

In 2008, *Black Entertainment Television* (BET) premiered a documentary entitled "Fashion Blackout" in which fashion tastemakers including Bethann Hardison, Naomi Campbell, and Tracy Reese spoke out about the lack of Black beauty represented in the fashion industry. The piece posed questions such as "Is the fashion industry racist?" and "Has being Black become unfashionable?"

Over the last two years the fashion industry vitally functioned without featuring Black models. Fashion publication *Women's Wear Daily* (WWD) found that one third of the fashion shows in the Fall 2007 New York Fashion Week used no models of color. In this case, models of color not only refer to Black models, but models of Asian and Latin American descent. However, in Fall 2009 New York Fashion Week, 21 percent of the models were models of color and of those models, the majority were Black.

Black model collection of the nation's premier fashion magazine, as well as the nation's African American Republican newspaper, is still today that being Black in sales is not a bit more than the fashion industry, much like the rest of the world has experienced "The Barbie Effect." Italian *Vogue* editor, Franco Sozzani, said her decision to make the August 2008 issue which featured only Black models was influenced by Barack Obama's success to the U.S. presidential primacy.

Adlin, a model from Boston based agency, Tonn Model Management does not believe that Barack's popularity only is responsible for the increase in Black models in 2009. "I don't think it's so much Barack but his relationship to Michelle and her style. Companies need ethnic models to represent the styles that she's wearing."

Northeastern sophomore, Liana Cools agrees, "People have a certain idea of how Black women dress. I think Michelle Obama represents an often ignored group of Black women with a different style. I think that designers will want more Black women to model clothes like the one Michelle wears."

In an interview with Carole White, co-founder of Premier Model Management, stated, "Black models don't sell. People don't tend to talk about it but Black models have to be so beautiful and perfect because we can't have a lot of diversity with Black models." One of the oldest excuses for the lack of Black models portrayed in fashion magazines and advertisements is that they don't sell. However, Italian *Vogue's* all Black issue was so popular that it had to be reprinted to satisfy demand proving that crossing color lines can lead to an increase in dollar signs for the fashion industry.

First Lady Michelle Obama had a successful run as the March 2009 cover girl for American *Vogue*. This month R&B singer Beyoncé is its cover girl demonstrating that the fashion industry is not completely in the dark when it comes to Black beauty. But is this the end of the "fashion Blackout"? Italian *Vogue's* all Black issue last year was an innovative endeavor, but it was merely a drop in the bucket. For one month, the world was able to experience Black beauty at its best. What happened the next month? It was business as usual with Ukrainian model, Viktoriya Sasonkina on Italian *Vogue's* September 2008 issue.

At the end of the day it's all about selling a product. So, if the powers that be don't believe that models of color

can sell a product, they're going to go with what they believe can. Usually that's their Snow White counterparts," says Northeastern graduate student Rob Felton.

"There are a lot of pretty faces in the market but what makes the difference is personality," says fashion model, Adlin. "I think the models have a certain level of responsibility. Making sure photos are updated in order to make sure that they are as marketable as possible," she continues.

Sure the "powers that be" possess some responsibility for the lack of Black models but it is also up to society to express their opinions of beauty by supporting companies that feature Black models. The increase of Black models featured in this year's New York Fall Fashion Week as well as the inclusion of more models like Chanel Iman and Jourdan Dunn demonstrates that the fashion industry's climate is changing.

There's no way for us to determine whether the fashion industry is realizing that Black models are sellable images or are they're just capitalized off a trend, but we can only hope they're changing with the times. Fashion insiders need to come to the conclusion beauty comes in all different shapes and shades. The "Blackout" must be televised; its America is witnessing Black beauty at its best.

BY ANULI AKANEGBU

If you're interested in hearing more from Akanegbu on fashion, check out her blog:

www.in-color.net

A site dedicated to exploring topics in art, design, fashion, music and entertainment from the minority perspective worldwide.

The Heart and Soul of the LSCC: Sara Rivera

BY KADIDJHA TRAORE

"I was never interested in going to college, ever," said Sara Rivera, the administrative assistant of the Latino/a Student Cultural Center.

"My desire when I left high school was to go into the Air Force I wanted to be a pilot," said Rivera. "I wanted to fly planes and helicopters, I had this big dream in my head about what I wanted to do."

However, her dreams were put to a standstill when her mother disapproved of Rivera joining the Air Force. Due to Rivera's great respect for her mother she decided against joining the Air Force.

After graduating from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School Rivera started her journey at Northeastern University, majoring in pre-med.

Rivera struggled her freshman year. As a commuter student and working two part-time jobs it was hard to find time to study.

"I was so embarrassed that I flunked my first semester that I didn't want to continue flunking," said Rivera. "I just didn't enjoy school and I didn't want to go so I decided to drop out."

After leaving Northeastern, Rivera started working at one of her part-time jobs full-time, while taking classes at a community college. She worked at an agency that is now called Blue Cross Blue Shield for four years and later went on to a different company where she worked at for five years. She was able to work her way up in the company. However, she had a wake up call when she could not be promoted to a higher position because she did not have a college degree.

"That really made me think a lot about going back to school and what

other opportunities could be available to me [if I had a degree]," said Rivera.

Rivera then decided to leave the insurance industry to find a job where she would possibly be able to obtain a degree while earning an income.

A friend told her about a secretary position at the then few months old Latino/a Student Center at NU.

"I was at the end of my saving a friend of mine told me about the

of free falled a little bit by taking courses here and there because I wasn't sure what I wanted to major in but I ultimately decided on business administration."

Eight years later and two daughters later, Rivera finished her associate's degree in 2006.

She is a mother to two girls who are eight and six years-old. Rivera says she talks to them a lot about the importance



secretary position at the Latino center," said Rivera. "I applied and I figured that's the way I can work my way into school."

Rivera ended up right where she started after graduating high school—at NU. She got the secretary position in 1997. Three years later she was promoted to the position she now holds.

Rivera has seen the center go through many changes; four directors and students mature from undecided freshmen to professionals in corporate America. The students motivated her.

She started taking classes at after she got the position.

"I took some courses and kind

of getting an education.

"I've always told them that they can be anything they want and that there's no such thing as a boy's job and a girl's job, [that they] can be anything," said Rivera.

Rivera continued her education last January, and will be graduating this June with a Bachelor's of Science in Leadership. However, Rivera says she does not plan on leaving Northeastern anytime soon. She aspires to get a master's degree someday. For now she would like to spend more time with her children and family.

Deeply Rooted: Carrie Boykin

BY BRITTANY BASS

Nestled on the second of floor of the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute, Carrie Boykin, the coordinator of the Ujima Scholars Program quietly works in her office. Boykin is constantly working around the clock to help connect the newest Ujima scholars with past scholars. Her goal is to bridge the gap between scholars and the rest of the Northeastern community.

Her schooling began at a historically Black college in West Point, Miss. Boykin moved to Boston and attended both Newbury College and Northeastern University. While pursuing a bachelor's degree in management-administration at Northeastern she held the position of secretary to the director of Ujima Scholars. Boykin was promoted from a program counselor to the coordinator of Ujima Scholars after obtaining her Master of Science in human resources management.

She juggles the roles of administrator and counselor to provide scholars with a balance of her nurturing side as well as her advisory side. She said that one of the most difficult tasks is giving students constructive criticism while remaining their source of encouragement, but she's always ready for the challenge.

Building relationships with students is her favorite part of her position. Boykin believes these relationships are important in helping students to achieve their goals. "We hope that students can see us not only as administrators but see us as valuable mentors," said Boykin. "We want them to really work hard to be the best scholars they can be because that would be giving back to the program."

The program bears the Swahili

word, which means "collective work and responsibility," Boykin has been enforcing this message as coordinator. She reminds students, "It's [Ujima] not just an avenue to get into Northeastern but we provide resources at their [students] disposal." "The program can only be as strong as students' participation in it." Also, she encourages students to keep the program by giving back and lending their time to the Ujima when feasible. Programs such as assisted study

it is helping to admit more minority students into medical school.

Last February, the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute held a series of luncheons honoring African American staff and faculty. Boykin was recognized, along with her co-worker Mildred Hughes and Deborah Jackson of the Red Cross, for her service to the Northeastern community (see photo: second from L-R: Boykin, Hughes and Jackson).



COURTESY OF CRAIG BAILEY

and co-op forums are ways in which Boykin tries to encourage past scholars to contribute.

In addition to serving as the Ujima coordinator, the Alabama native has served as the advisor for Northeastern's Minority Association for Pre-Health Students (MAPS). Boykin has lent her time to this particular organization because she believes, "there is a shortage of minority health professionals" and these students are the answer. Also, she believes it's extremely rewarding to act as an advisor to this organization because

The driving force behind the Ujima Scholars stays extremely humble and says her "journey at Northeastern has been greatly enriched by the awesome opportunity that has been entrusted to me; to guide, educate, motivate, encourage, and mentor students through their college experience." In her leisure time, Boykin is an active member of her church and sings in the church choir. Boykin is a spiritual woman whom is "deeply rooted in her southern upbringing."

Don't Judge The Athlete

BY MARGARET KAMARA

Athletes are perceived as privileged individuals who in the professional world make six figures and live their lives in the fast lane. In college, athletes seemingly get the equivalent of this life style, receiving a full ride: tuition, room/board and books, which are covered without having to worry about owing Sallie Mae. They are seen as celebrities and the group that knows how to throw the best parties.

At Northeastern, athletes are viewed in this light; however, three student-athletes will show that not all athletes are the same. While some may engage in frivolous behavior others are doing just the opposite. They are involved on campus and in the community, and are thinking about their future.

Yarsolav Mukha, an offensive lineman on the NU football team, is one of these athletes living beyond the stereotypes. The third year student majoring in physical therapy does not drink or smoke and says he is focused on "God first, family second, education, and athletics."

"[Because I am an athlete] people expect my weekend activities to be a certain way," said Mukha. "When they see me they associate me with a certain group of people they never really give me the chance or get to know who I am. They just see me as being this football player and nothing else, which is fine because I think a lot of athletes are great people they are just never given the chance just stereotyped."

Mukha is one of the leaders of Athletics in Action (AAC), a Christian support group consisting of mostly student-athletes. Through AAC athletes get a chance to be around people who are interested in talking about religion and are dealing with similar experiences. The group currently has tentative

recognition and Mukha and other members are working to make it an official organization.

Melissa "Missy" Elumba, forward for the women's ice hockey team, is a free spirited athlete that takes life as it comes or as she puts it best, 'as God plans it out.' Elumba was named the 2009 recipient of the Bank of New York Mellon Wealth Management Hockey Humanitarian Award, earlier this month. The award is given to college hockey students who have accomplishment of personal character, scholarship and community service. Past awards Elumba has received included the Chanda Gunn Community Service Award, named after former NU player and current U.S. National team member who received the Hockey Humanitarian Award in 2004.

"I am blown away by being named to this award," Elumba is quoted to have said in the article that appeared in the university's site. "I don't even think I deserve it, but being recognized for this honor is merely a testament to the importance of putting others before yourself. That is a value I live my life by."

The pre-med senior is the president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, which exists to be the voice for athletes by serving as a liaison between athletes and the athletics department. She is also the driving force behind

two new student run philanthropies, Northeastern Students 4 Giving and Northeastern Husky Wish List. Both organizations work to assist local non profits that are dedicated to helping to improve the lives of youths.

Another Husky athlete making strides is Mark Washington, who played center on the basketball team and defensive end on the football team. The first generation college student came to NU in 2004 with a plan to get a bachelor's degree in criminal justice but as of this August will be graduating with a Master's in Sports in Leadership.

After finishing his collegiate career playing basketball for NU, Washington said he was presented with the opportunity to get his master's.

"A lot of basketball and hockey [players] don't get to do co-ops because the seasons tend to be longer so we tend to finish [with courses] earlier," said Washington. "With me I was asked to play football. During my senior year, the football coaches approach me and asked me to play football for them and be jokingly I asked what would I get from it and they said a master's degree. I talked it over with my family and they agreed. I took the chance even though I haven't played football since I was 12, and it worked out."

Washington graduated in May of 2008 with a Bachelor's of Science. While his graduate scholarship is partial,

“[Because I am an athlete] people expect my weekend activities to be a certain way... they never really give me the chance or get to know who I am...”

covering only half of the six-semester long term, he says he is thankful for the chance to get a post graduate degree. Washington plans to stay in Boston after graduation in August and hopes to pursue a career as a U.S. Marshall.

Despite such accomplishments, the misconceptions of athletes continue. The most common is that athletes tend to take "easy" classes, and professors don't hold them to the same standard as they do non athletes.

"I definitely think that even through we are encouraged [to choose easier programs] we are not necessarily pushed or forced to try easier majors," said Mukha. "It kind of depends on who you are as a person academically and physically. If you are willing to put up with the work, maybe stay up late at night just to finish your work [then you are not affected by this]. I try."

Mukha said he came to NU as a criminal justice major but after getting injured and going through therapy developed an interest for the medical field and switched his major to physical therapy. Through the six year program, Mukha will be graduating with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

One of the delusions that students tend to have of athletes is that they receive special liberties. However, Washington says that being an athlete does not translate to getting special treatment, especially by professors.

"I have had many problems with professors," said Washington. "Two years ago my team mates and I were given a hard time by this one professor who refused to let us make up missed assignments; we had to go to the athletes department and have someone talk to her. An agreement was made for that she would let us make up the work. It may not be the highest grade possible but she met us half way."

To prevent more problems with professors, Washington said he introduced himself to professors early on and attended office hours to discuss assignments and informed professors when he would be absent.

However, Elumba says that athletes

are the cause for the negative stereotypes that exist. She recalls her first visit to NU when she was being hosted by student athletes.

"During my official visit [to Northeastern] I actually hated it; I had a bad time, because the team was not really nice," said Elumba. "They thought taking recruits out for a good time was taking them drinking and I was not into it. They all have graduated now. Its changed, then it was not a positive experience; I left thinking it was fun to see Boston, especially since I had never been to the East Coast, but I am never going to go there."

Elumba said the athletic atmosphere; 'work hard and party hard,' is also to blame for the way athletes are perceived. She said athletes don't have much time to have a social life and when they finally do they tend to over do it because they don't get the time to do so often.

The typecasts of athletes, as Brylee Maxfield, senior marketing manager for Sports in Society, points out is a serious problem.

"Lumping athletes into stereotypes doesn't fairly represent them as members of society," said Maxfield. "Athletes face the same issues that [regular] people face but because they are athletes they have some celebrity status and so the spotlight shines on them. People reading about them may see their problem as [unique to athletes] but everyone has these problems."

Maxfield, a high school athlete, graduated from NU in 2008. Sports in Society, housed at Northeastern, uses sports to promote diversity in local and global communities. Maxfield said that part of the reason why the center exists is to give athletes a chance to showcase that athletes have many sides as do people in general.

As Mukha, Elumba and Washington agreed, their positions as athletes will always be closely watched. It is up to athletes to paint a better picture of themselves in society.



Yarsolav Mukha #72
Football Team
Middler



Missy Elumba #7
Women's Hockey Team
Senior



Mark Washington #91
Football Team
Graduate

Out & About



VP of Student Affairs, Ed Klotzbier, posing with the 2009 Richard Cardinal Cushing Award Scholars: Victoria Okusanya, Jaclyn Snell and Ruthie Wyshogrod, along with Shelli Jankowski-Smith, Director of Spiritual Life, and Delia Hom, Director of the Asian-American Center, at the awards ceremony on April 7. The Award, established in 1978, is given to students who “have become positive forces for religious understanding.”



Rupal Bhakta and Gauravi Prabhu performed a classical Bharatanatyam Indian dance at the International Students & Scholars Institute's Gala Night held on March 28 in Blackman Auditorium. The event concluded ISSI's annual two-months long Carnivale cultural festival.



Members of the Latin American Student Organization, Yoelinson Castillo and Odalis Polanco, posing with Armarfis, a well-known artist within the Latin community who performed at the organization's cultural show after party held at afterHOURS on March 28.



Resident Assistant (RA) Natasha Michel gets a henna tattoo at a program hosted by RA Harsheet Shah in Loftman Hall. Henna is temporary body design widely used in the Middle East and Asia for special functions. Loftman Hall is home to the international and multiculturalism-in-action living learning communities.



PHOTO BY ASHA CESAR

Performers and members of UTSAV, Northeastern's Southeast Asian Student Organization, at the group's annual cultural show, Nataraj held on April 11 at Blackman Auditorium. This year's theme was Saturday Night Live. A reception followed afterwards in which Indian food was served.



PHOTO BY MEGHAN AUSTIN

Sophomore Wensess Raphael helps out children with their "Peace Maker" projects at St. Patrick's Elementary located in Roxbury. Raphael is part of the student group Social Change Through Peace Games.



PHOTO BY ASHA CESAR

NU student Kristin Lee modeling a kimono in the fashion show part of Celebr(Asian) held on March 28 at the Fenway Center. Celebr(Asian) is the annual cultural show hosted by members of the Asian American Center and the Pan Asian-American Council. It featured dance and musical performances from NU students.



COURTESY OF ALIAZAR ASEFA

Sophomore Aliazar Asefa shaking hands with superstar LL Cool J, on April 14. The rapper was on campus on a tour with his daughter, Italia Smith, who is considering attending NU in the Fall.



COURTESY OF BETHEL ALEMU

NU students Randell Dauda and Yaneline Salerno modeling Bead for Life jewelry made by Ugandan women living with AIDS in the fashion show section of the Northeastern African Student Organization's annual Africa Night cultural show. The event held on March 14 commemorated NASO's 20th anniversary.

ONYX Week

April 6-11th 2009



ONYX BBQ



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80'S/90'S PARTY



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Get at me.

Holla at ya girl.

Send me an e-mail at ms.nubian@gmail.com



nubian images created by Herculano Fernandes

Sharing is Caring

Dear. Mr. Nubian,

I am having a serious problem. My best friend is currently dating this guy from another school, she is really happy with him and their relationship is off to a great start. I have kept a terrible secret from my best friend; I have a past with the guy she is currently dating. A few months ago I met him at a party and we had sex. It wasn't anything more than a one-night stand, and I really don't want anything to do with him. Whenever he is around it's just mad awkward I want to tell her, but I am scared. I am torn, what should I do?

Sincerely,

Blame it on the Alcohol

Dear Blame It on the Alcohol,

I know the feeling of having something overwhelming on your conscience. I have two words, TELL HER! The worst-case scenario is that she is upset with you and it damages your friendship, but ultimately your integrity is more important. What happens if he decides to tell her first and she hates you

for not being honest? What happens if they take it further their relationship becomes more serious? You will have to live with that on your conscience forever. I say take her to a nice dinner and reveal the secret. Peace and Blessings.

-Mr. Nubian

Girl-friend?

Dear Ms. Nubian,

I am a lesbian, but not many people on campus know. I have the biggest crush on a friend, but I think it would be awkward to ask her if she is gay. The way she acts towards me makes speculate, but she is well known on campus, and I feel like even if she is, she may not be ready to act on her feelings. Then again, my gaydar could be wrong! As my feelings grow stronger, I pull away from her because I don't want her to feel uncomfortable around me, which is starting to make me uncomfortable around her. Ms. Nubian, what should I do?

Signed,

Curious Crush

Dear Curious Crush,

Listen to what you are saying! You'd be uncomfortable asking her if she's gay, but you'd be uncomfortable hanging out with her and not asking her if she's gay. You need to decide if your feelings are strong enough to approach her about her sexuality. But pulling away isn't the answer, because if you do that, she won't be your girlfriend, OR your friend.

Let's say she is gay and she feels the same way about you. Next you guys need to decide is whether she's ready to come out and be in a relationship with you. Because if she isn't secure with herself, you can't trust that she's going to be honest with you. I suggest you give her the benefit of a doubt; don't just assume that because she's well known on campus that she won't come out and be in a relationship with you. But if she doesn't want to, you need to find someone else that is secure enough with themselves that they can be with you, out in the open. And the same goes for you! Don't be ashamed of who you are. Good luck!

-Ms. Nubian

SOUL *speech*

Submit to SoulSpeech
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Missing Voice *BY REEMA M. BANIABBASI*



Block

By Reema M. Baniabbasi

February, 21, 2009

Paper and pen...
Are mute.
Heart is deaf...
To emotion.
Mind is wounded...
By thought.

Inspiration from
Everyone and everything—
—Speaks—
—In all languages—
—In no languages—
—Simultaneously—
What heavy noise—!

Soul is crippled...
Is...the Spirit...
...dead...?
...Or playing?

Knocking Emotion

BY REEMA M. BANIABBASI

November 2, 2008

Who are you that knocks?
A familiar stranger—
Born from my heart
Yet no native from my heart!

Your knocking randomly
Whips me with
A tremor—
A burning chill
Inside out
Outside in
Choking me with gravity
Tearing soul from body
Yet...
....Infusing me
With phoenix breath
Rising from
Its ashes.

O' sweet breath-taking-breath-giving anxiety!
In your ever expanding ripples
I drown!—
A drug I crave and despise!
So come in
And do not come in
O' one with and without a name—
One whom I now give a name
...And many other names!

When “The Stranger” Barged In...

She was out collecting strawberries as part of her daily routine when before her stood a mysterious young man wearing a mask. From his pale hands and snow-white hair, she could tell that he was an albino.

She ignored his presence and tried to concentrate on her work, but the man still stood there gazing at her. Finally making some movement, the albino shamelessly walked into her house.

Furiously, she ran into her home, but he wasn't there. She searched each room yet found no one.

“First you disregard my existence,” a strange voice said, “now you do not welcome me into your humble home?”

She turned to the direction of where the voice seemed to have originated and found the albino sitting on the only couch in her small living room with his legs stretched. “Humans—even the humblest among them—were and still are rude to me.” He continued.

“Rude?” she sarcastically questioned with an angry tone, “I don't think barging in people's homes without their permission is polite, especially when they're strangers!”

“I believe we know each other very well...” he answered calmly, “You knew my name ever since you first learned how to speak. Although you've never met me, you knew people who had done so...” He stood and walked toward her saying, “I know both your parents.”

“My parents died ages ago!” she retorted, “Now get out of here or else!” she brought her deceased father's pistol from a drawer and pointed it at him. The albino didn't seem to display any fear of her threat. He simply looked at the pistol with eyes expressing disgust.

“I held you before you were born,” he said as he grabbed her arm.

“Don't touch me!!” She interrupted and pulled the trigger—BANG!!—but...the man still held her arm and continued speaking as if nothing happened!

“Now I'll hold you again...in the long run, nothing can stop me...” He said and then took off his mask.

She let out a scream and everything—her home, her farm, her fears, her hopes, her joys, her sorrows, and her breath—vanished, as if it were all but a dream...

BY REEMA M. BANIABBASI

Silent Girl

Silent girl doesn't cry
She closes her eyes and opens her thighs and let's him get inside
While using her smiles as a disguise
To cover up the pain which lies beside the anger, which was built up on top of the fear.
Which all festered in her stomachs and stayed there In the form of a tear

Silent girl doesn't cry.
She writes her words down on paper
And wishes they will jump out and save her
From the things that have shaped her
She wishes that her words would jump out and rape her
Impregnate her with her feeling
And make her belly swell with the pride
That she never has to hide what she feels inside
Silent girl doesn't cry
She sweeps
And when she sweeps she weeps
Invisble tears though
She dosent want her husband to see because when he see's he beats
And when he beats she peaks outside of herself and wishes she wasn't so weak
Still silent girl dosent cry
She goes to the mall and buys the gucci and mark Jacobs
Mac lipgloss and makeup
To coverup and take up the place of the pain.
Still silent girl dosent cry
She balls up in a corner and waits for the pain to subside
And when it dosent she pops a few pills and swallows a bottle of peroxide
Still silent girl dosent cry
She dies
Maybe it wouldn't have happens if she had just let herself cry.

BY YVONNE WILKINS

THE ONYX
WOULD LIKE TO
CONGRATULATE
THE CLASS
OF 2009 ON A
SUCCESSFUL
COLLEGE CAREER
AND WISH THEM
LUCK!



ONYX

The ONYX Informer exists to be a voice for the people of the African Diaspora and the greater Boston community in which we reside. The ONYX embraces the unity and the values of diversity in both content of our publication and in the membership of our organization.